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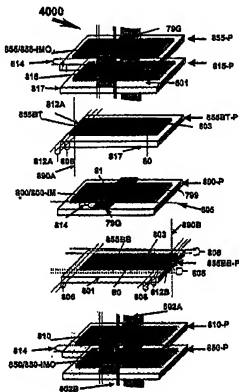
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: OFFSET PATHWAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENERGY CONDITIONING



(57) Abstract: An amalgamation of selected energy pathways and other elements formed at least in-part by sequential manufacturing operations and made operable to be coupled and/or formed as part of a predetermined assembly and/or assemblies and/or assembly variations practicable and/or operable for sustaining electrically opposing and/or complementary energy portion confluences that can be themselves made operable by the arrangement amalgam to undergo portions of energy conditioning as a portion of an energized circuit.

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**[01] OFFSET PATHWAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENERGY CONDITIONING****[02] Cross Reference to Related Applications**

[03] This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/845,680, filed April 30, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial  
5 No. 09/815,246 filed March 22, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application  
Serial No. 09/777,021 filed February 5, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending  
application, Serial No. 09/632,048 filed August 3, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of co-  
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10 of co-pending application Serial No. 09/460,218 filed December 13, 1999, now issued as U.S.  
Patent Number 6,331,926, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/056,379 filed  
April 7, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,018,448, which is a continuation-in-part of  
application Serial No. 09/008,769 filed January 19, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent Number  
6,097,581, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/841,940 filed April 8,  
15 1997, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 5,909,350.

[04] In addition, this application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/280,819, filed April 2, 2001, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/302,429, filed July 2, 2001, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/310,962, filed August 8, 2000, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/\_\_\_\_\_, filed January 7, 2002.

20

**[05] Technical Field**

[06] This application relates to a predetermined, substantially symmetrically balanced amalgam that uses complementary relative groupings of energy pathways, such as electrodes, for various energy portion propagations, which relative offset groupings can be  
25 practicable, in-turn, for multiple energy conditioning functions. These arrangements and/or at  
least select variants thereof can be operable as discrete or non-discrete embodiments practicable

and/or operable for sustaining electrically opposing and/or complementary energy portion confluences, which energy portion confluences, in accordance with the amalgam, undergo portions of energy conditioning as a portion of an energized circuit.

30

**[07] Background**

[08] Today, as the density of electronics within typical system applications increases, unwanted noise byproducts of the increased density limit the performance of critical and non-critical electronic circuitry. Consequently, the avoidance of the effects of unwanted noise byproducts, such as by isolation or immunization of circuit portions against the effects of the  
35 undesirable noise is an important consideration for most circuit arrangements and circuit design.

[09] Differential and common mode noise energy can be generated by, and may propagate along and/or around, energy pathways, cables, circuit board tracks or traces, high-speed transmission lines, and/or bus line pathways. In many cases, these energy conductors may act as, for example, an antenna radiating energy fields. This antenna-analogous performance may  
40 exacerbate the noise byproduct problem in that, at higher frequencies, propagating energy portions utilizing prior art passive devices may experience increased levels of energy parasitic interference, such as various capacitive and/or inductive parasitics.

[010] These increases can be due, in part, to the combination of constraints due to the functionally and/or structurally limitations of prior art solutions, coupled with the inherent  
45 manufacturing and/or design imbalances and/or performance deficiencies of the prior art. These deficiencies inherently create, or induce, operability highly conducive to unwanted and/or unbalanced interference energy that couples into an associated electrical circuitry, thereby making at least partial shielding from these parasitics and EMI desirable. Consequently, for broad frequency operating environments, solution of these problems necessitates at least a  
50 combination of simultaneous filtration of input and output lines, careful systems layout having various grounding or anti-noise arrangements, as well as extensive at least partial isolating in combination with at least partial electrostatic and/or electromagnetic shielding.

[011] Thus, a need exists for a self-contained, energy-conditioning arrangement utilizing simple, predetermined arrangements of energy pathways and other predetermined elements that, when amalgamated into a discreet or non-discreet component, may be utilized in almost any circuit application for providing effective, symmetrically balanced, and sustainable, simultaneous energy conditioning functions selected from at least a decoupling function, transient suppression function, noise cancellation function, energy blocking function, and energy suppression functions utilizing at least a partial physical shielding as well as at least partial electrostatic shielding derived from a shielding energy pathway arrangement.

### [012] Brief Description of the Drawings

[013] Understanding of an exemplary embodiment will be facilitated by consideration of the following detailed description of illustrative embodiments taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals refer to like parts, and wherein:

[014] FIG. 1 is a exploded view of a minimum stacking sequence of an exemplary embodiment of a shielding electrode architecture having bypass electrodes with optional outer “-IM” shielding electrodes, in accordance at least one embodiment of a number of possible exemplary embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

[015] FIG. 2 is a exploded view of a stacking sequence of at least one exemplary embodiment of a shielding electrode architecture having bypass electrodes shown without any optional final sandwiching outer “-IM” shielding electrodes in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible exemplary embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

[016] FIG. 3A is an exploded view of an exemplary embodiment of an amalgamated shielding structure having grouped, shielding structures, portions of which can be designated as 900“X”, and which further may include paired shielding electrode containers, portions of which can be designated as 800“X”. Center axis 999 is depicted, as can be lines 999B and 999C, each of which

represents a cross-section, in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible exemplary embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

80 [017] FIG. 3B is a 999B cross-section view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of a multiple energy pathway arrangement, in accordance with the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 1;

[018] FIG. 3C is a 999C cross-section view of a portion of an exemplary embodiment of a multiple energy pathway arrangement, in accordance with the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 2;

85 [019] FIG. 4A is a semi-transparent, top plan view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

[020] FIG. 4B is a "999B" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible exemplary embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 4A;

90 [021] FIG. 4C is a "999C" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 4A;

[022] FIG. 5A is a semi-transparent, top plan view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

95 [023] FIG. 5B is a "999B" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 5A;

[024] FIG. 5C is a "999C" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 5A;

100 [025] FIG. 6A is a semi-transparent, top plan view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

[026] FIG. 6B is a "999B" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 6A;

105 [027] FIG. 6C is a "999C" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 6A;

[028] FIG. 7A is a semi-transparent, top plan view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

110 [029] FIG. 7B is a "999B" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 7A;

[030] FIG. 7C is a "999C" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of  
115 predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 7A;

[031] FIG. 8A is a semi-transparent, top plan view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement;

[032] FIG. 8B is a "999B" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of  
120 predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 8A;

[033] FIG. 8C is a "999C" cross-section view of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of the energy pathway arrangement with various selected areas of predetermined energy portion interactions as illustrated in FIG. 8A;

[034] FIG. 9A shows a top plan with offsets view of a portion of a typical shielding energy  
125 pathway depicting a typical 'spilt' electrode configuration;



[035] FIG. 9B shows a portion of a side plan view depicting FIG. 9A;

### [036] Description of the Invention

[037] This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/845,680, filed April 30, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/815,246 filed March 22, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/777,021 filed February 5, 2001, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application, Serial No. 09/632,048 filed August 3, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/594,447 filed June 15, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/579,606 filed May 26, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application Serial No. 09/460,218 filed December 13, 1999, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,331,926, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/056,379 filed April 7, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,018,448, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 09/008,769 filed January 19, 1998, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,097,581, which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/841,940 filed April 8, 1997, now issued as U.S. Patent Number 5,909,350, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

[038] In addition, this application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/280,819, filed April 2, 2001, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/302,429, filed July 2, 2001, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/310,962, filed August 8, 2000, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/\_\_\_\_\_ filed January 7, 2002, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

[039] It is to be understood that the figures and descriptions can be illustrative of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, and have been simplified in order to illustrate elements that can be relevant for a clear understanding of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments, while eliminating, for purposes of clarity, many other elements found in a typical energy conditioning device, system, and method.

Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that other elements can be desirable and/or required in order to implement at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of a energy pathway arrangement. However, because such elements are well known in the art, and  
155 because they do not facilitate a better understanding of any exemplary embodiment presented herein, a discussion of such elements is not provided herein. The disclosure herein below is directed to all such variations and modifications to energy conditioning devices, systems, and/or methods as are known, and will be apparent, to those skilled in the art.

[040] As the term is used generally herein, an "energy pathway", in accordance with at least  
160 one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, may be at least one, or a number, of conductive material portions, each one operable for sustained propagation of energy portions. Energy pathways may be conductive, and/or conductive by way of physical make-up, to better propagate various electrical and/or energies, as compared to non-conductive or semi-conductive materials directly coupled and/or adjacent to the energy  
165 pathways.

[041] An energy pathway within at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement may facilitate propagation of energy portions by allowing for various, simultaneous energy conditioning functions on those energy portions because of the orientation and positioning of the energy pathways within the energy pathway arrangement,  
170 which in-turn allows for interaction of various energy portions with other propagating complementary energy portions.

[042] An energy pathway may include an energy pathway portion, an entire energy pathway, an energy pathway, and/or a conductor, and/or an energy conductor, and/or an electrode, and/or at least one process-created conductor, and/or an electrode, and or a shielding. A plurality of energy  
175 pathways may include a plurality of each device or element discussed hereinabove with respect to energy pathway.

[043] A type of energy pathway may include a shielding. A shielding may include a shielding energy pathway, a shielding energy pathway portion, a shielded energy pathway portion, a

shielded energy pathway, and/or shielded conductor, and/or shielded energy conductor, and/or  
180 shielded electrode, and/or at least one process-created shielded energy pathway portion, and/or  
shielded conductor, and/or shielded energy conductor, and/or "shielded electrode". A plurality of  
shieldings may include a plurality of the devices or elements discussed hereinabove with respect  
to shielding.

[044] A type of energy pathway may be a conductor and/or an electrode. As used generally  
185 herein, and with respect to propagating energy portions, an individual, or complementary  
positioned and/or orientated conductor, and/or energy conductor, and/or electrode, may, for  
example include a pairing of physically opposing, or oppositely orientated relative to one  
another, conductor, and/or electrodes, that may thereby be electrically complementary and/or  
electrically differential. Further, as used generally herein, conductor(s) and/or electrode(s) may  
190 include, for example, an individual conductive material portion, electrical wire, such as a  
resistive lead, conductive material portions, electrical plates, such as plates separated by at least  
one medium 801, and/or a separation portion, and the like, for example.

[045] In an illustrative embodiment, energy pathway arrangement may include at least a  
195 shielding positioned at least a partially shield energy pathways, in part or in whole, and/or as a  
conductive shielding structure with respect to at least an isolated and/or conductively isolated  
pairing of at least two energy pathways, such as an electrode, such as complementary paired  
electrodes.

[046] Additionally, as used generally herein, the term "AOC" 813 may include at least a  
200 portion of a predetermined and/or selected three-dimensional area within at least one  
embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement  
practicable for sustaining complementary energy portion confluences and/or interactions that  
may undergo energy conditioning. Thus, an AOC 813 may be a result of a predetermined  
manufactured sequence of various selected and/or predetermined and/or arranged pairing of  
205 energy pathways and a shielding, of which these pathways may allow predetermined energy

conditioning functions, resulting from energy propagation, to occur or take place upon portions of complementary propagating energies pathed within an AOC 813.

[047] As used herein, the term "ALI" may include a portion of a predetermined and/or selected three-dimensional area of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, that may be practicable for less sustenance of complementary energy portion confluences than a comparable AOC 813, at least in part due to the fact that the ALI may be or include, for example, a space, an empty or non-electrical physical area, an insulating area, or another area type, such as an area created by an arrangement of the energy pathways, that results in such lacking at least a portion of an energy pathway arrangement that would otherwise allow for a more balanced interaction of energy confluences. For example, ALI may be formed of, or may include, portions designated 806, 6400, 666 6300, and 6500, respectively, as these 6400, 806, 666, 6300, and 6500 areas may have lesser energy conditioning and/or balanced interaction, and/or confluence capability than a comparable AOC 813.

[048] In addition, as used generally herein, the terms "outer" or "external" may include locations up to, and/or beyond, the typical effective energy-conditioning range or influence, spacing or area, of an AOC 813, as defined hereinabove. Outer or external, as used generally herein, need not be separate of an AOC 813, and need not be contiguously apart from other elements included in an energy pathway arrangement and/or an AOC 813. Thus, for example, outer or external, as used herein, may apply to all, or a majority, of the locations of electrode extensions 79'X' with respect to AOC 813, irrespective of a contiguous relation to the main body portion 80 of that electrode.

[049] In an illustrative energy pathway arrangement embodiment, among others, for example, such as illustrated with respect to FIGs. 1, 2, 3, and 7A, wherein the various propagating energy portions can be complementary, the energy pathway arrangement, upon placement into a circuit arrangement(s), may allow for energy propagation within and/or along certain portions of energy pathways of the energy pathway arrangement, thereby allowing for the mutual interaction of oppositely moving portions of electrode-sourced magnetic fields produced by the propagation of energy field currents emanating outwardly from each of the complementary conductors. This

mutual cancellation may occur wherein certain electrodes can be partially or totally physically shielded from other complementary electrodes, and can be placed within an influencing distance(s). Further, a substantial similarity in size and/or shape of the respective complementary electrodes, the spaced-apart relationship of the electrodes, the interpositioning of a shielding, as well as the conductively isolated relationship of the electrodes may contribute to this mutual cancellation effect.

[050] Further, in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, the complementary electrodes may be substantially the same in size, shape, and/or position, and may be subjected to a plurality of shielding dynamics partially within a simultaneously operating shielding structure, in which electrostatic shielding may effect portions of energy propagating through or about the shielding structure. It will be understood herein by those of ordinary skill that the use of the terms substantially similarly or equally sized or shaped, complementary sized or shaped, or same or equal sized or shaped, or the like, incorporates the common understanding in the art of manufacturing tolerances and/or commonly practiced manufacturing in the state of the art, such as manufacturing practices that may be employed by original equipment manufacturers (OEM) in the construction of an energy pathway arrangement as described herein.

[051] Although the electrostatic shielding may be mutually exclusive to each portion of the respective complementary conductor during the shielding, dynamic shielding additionally results from a specific, predetermined, relative positioning, internal to the energy pathway, which positioning results in an electrostatic shielding that is dependant upon a plurality of variables including, but not limited to, predetermined physical placement and location of each of the respective complementary electrode portions through which energy propagates during energizing of the respective electrode portions. For example, the predetermined amalgamation of selected electrodes and/or shielding may be formed, at least in part, using a sequential manufacturing operation, such as that used to form a multi-functional energy-conditioner.

[052] Thus, the shielding dynamic operations discussed hereinabove may be predicated, at least in-part, on a predetermined positioning of a first of the respective complementary electrodes

relative to a second of the respective complementary electrodes, wherein the first of the complementary electrodes and the second can be complements to one another, and thereby form "paired mates". Additionally, the shielding operations may be predicated on a relative  
265 positioning of the paired mate electrodes with respect to at least a portion of the conductive electrostatic shielding structure. At least the complementary energy conditioning functions and electrostatic shielding dynamics discussed herein may operate on various energy portions propagating in various directions along various predetermined energy pathways within an AOC 813, and may operate simultaneously with circuit operation of an energy pathway arrangement  
270 within, for example, a predetermined master circuit necessitating a desired master circuit behavior.

[053] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, a sub-combination of electromagnetically/electrostatically actuated impedance states may develop along or within a portion of an energy pathway arrangement,  
275 and/or along or within a closely coupled, predetermined external conductive portion that is coupled conductively to the shielding energy pathways, to thereby form a predetermined energy conditioning circuit. These electromagnetically/electrostatically actuated impedance states may develop, for example, because of the energization of the paired, energy pathways.

[054] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement as discussed herein, each shielding may include a main body  
280 portion 81. Main body portions 81 may collectively and conductively couple to one another, and at the same time may substantially immerse and shield the main body portions 80 of the electrode(s). Alternatively, the collective shielding main body portions 81 may only partially immerse and/or shield the electrode main-body portion 80a.

[055] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, due to a symmetry, certain superposed shielding energy pathways, complementary energy pathways sizing and shaping, and reciprocal positioning and pairing of the complementary energy pathways relative to the other, a balanced, symmetrical, energy  
285 pathway arrangement may be resultant. Manufacturable balanced and/or symmetrical physical

290 arrangements of energy pathways, wherein dynamic energy propagations and/or interactions or pairings or match-ups of various dynamic quantities, such as complementary energy propagations or quantities, cannot be simultaneously measured and/or may operate at less than a fundamental limit of accuracy of typical testing equipment, may result. Thus, when portions of these complementary energy quantities interact simultaneously within a range of space, such as  
295 AOC 813, such as a space parallel to the measurement circuit, the energy portions, an/or the interaction thereof, may be beyond the quantifiable range of the typical testing equipment, and thus may be beneath a 'testing floor'.

[056] A measurement capability, or a desired result, such as an electrical enhancement or characteristic variation, may be obtained due to a predetermined arrangement of elements that  
300 maintains a complementary balance, symmetry relative to a fixed or imaginary point or center reference axis and/or point 999

[057] Thus, the extent to which the measurement can be obtained may be controllable, and thereby, the electrical characteristics, or the effect on electrical characteristics, may be controllable, by predetermining the desired measurability, or behavior, or enhancement to be  
305 provided, by the arrangement of the elements, and by an arrangement of the elements to provide the desired measurability or effect. For example, a desired electrical characteristic and/or variance may be predetermined for subjecting to a desired enhancement by varying at least a portion of the complementary balance, size, shape, and/or symmetry of at least one energy pathway pairing, as set forth herein below with respect to at least one embodiment of a number  
310 of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, and as illustrated in FIGs. 4-9.

[058] Thus, variables such as the extent of energy interactions, mutual energy propagation timings, or interferences, for example, may be controllable by exerting control over tolerances within the energy pathway arrangement. These tolerances may be controllable, for example, by manually controlling a manufacture process, or by computer tolerance control, such as  
315 semiconductor process control. Thus, the energy pathways of an exemplary embodiment may be formed using manufacturing processes, such as passive device processes, apparent to those skilled in the art, the tolerances of which processes will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

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Mutual energy portion propagation timings or measurements may thereby be cancelled or suppressed by the formation of the energy pathway arrangement of an exemplary embodiment, in accordance with the ordinary understanding of those terms in the art.

[059] Accordingly, at least one predetermined manufacturing process can be utilized to create an energy pathway arrangement resulting in a sequentially positioned arrangement of relatively positioned groupings of electrodes in an amalgamated electronic structure having balanced groupings of predetermined energy pathways. The balanced grouping of predetermined energy pathways may include a predetermined electrode architecture having a stacked hierarchy of electrodes, symmetrical and complementary in number, and positioned complementary to one another and/or substantially equidistant on each side of a centrally positioned shielding, wherein each shielding energy pathway may provide at least a portion of a symmetrical balancing point for the overall electrode hierarchy. Thus, predetermined differential and/or complementary sized, shaped, and/or positioned electrodes are present on either side of the centrally positioned shielding. Thereby, the energy pathway is symmetrically divided into a predetermined complementary physical format that may include a reverse-mirror image positioning of paired differential and/or complementary sized and/or shaped electrodes, sandwiching at least one interposing shielding. This illustrative embodiment may be termed a symmetrical complementary energy pathway arrangement, and may include, for example, a reflected, or a rotated, translation of the embodiment discussed immediately hereinabove.

[060] The energy pathway arrangement may additionally include conductive structures, electrode portions, electrode termination elements, or conductive portions, such as those that can be practicable for attachment of the elements of the energy pathway arrangement to an external device, circuit, or circuit portion. Further, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the energy pathway arrangement may be made operable, such as for a predetermined effect, such as an incoming external energy conditioning, by combination with, and/or and conductive coupling to, at least one predetermined external device, circuit, or circuit portion. For example, predetermined conductive coupling of at least a portion of an energy pathway arrangement to at least one external device, circuit, or circuit portion may allow for a specifically attainable energy



conditioning function to be applied to at least one energy portion propagating to, from, and/or through the external device, circuit, or circuit portion and the at least a portion of the at least one energy pathway. Such at least one energy portion may include complementary energies, electrically opposite, and/or electrically polar opposite energy portions. Additionally, the energy pathway arrangement may be operable as a discrete component.

[061] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, each electrode may be, for example, a substrate, a deposit, an etching, a resultant of, for example a doping process, and the shielding may be, for example, an electrode substrate, a deposit, an etching, a resultant of, for example, a doping process, and may have, for example, resistive properties.

[062] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, shielding may be operable for at least two energy conditioning functions simultaneously, such as, for example, providing a circuit with a low impedance energy pathway, and/or common voltage reference, and/or an image plane function, and/or an energy blocking function, wherein, for example, a shielding energy pathway, such as 400 of FIG. 3A, , serves as at least a shielding and isolating at least partially physically interposed barrier operable for shielding electrostatically. These functions may be provided, for example, wherein a shielding energy pathway sandwiches at least a portion of each of the same-sized, complementary electrodes of a complementary electrode pairing. The use of same-sized complementary electrodes may allow for, for example, economical construction of many possible variants of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement. For example, close positioning of internal, parallel complementary energy pathways of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement may allow for development of a low impedance energy pathway or blocking function that may develop upon or along a shielding energy pathway that is not integral to direct energized circuit operation, nor is directly coupled to internal, parallel complementary energy pathways.

[063] A portion of at least a third energy pathway found within at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement may be near, or indirectly adjacent to and partially surrounding most, if not all, of at least portions of a first and a second energy pathway. Thereby, in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, at least two, but three or more, isolated energy pathways may be provided. For example, wherein a first and a second energy pathway can be at least each respective of at least a pairing of differential and/or complementary energy pathways and/or power/return pathways, simultaneously at least a third energy pathway may be physically and conductively separated from the first and a second energy pathway by at least portions of a medium 801 and/or material portions 801.

[064] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement at least a third energy pathway may be utilized for conductive coupling to predetermined portions of circuitries and/or bus lines, and/or an isolated ground and/or isolated conductive area and/or external conductive area (all not shown), for example, rather than utilizing, for example, at least first and second predetermined portions of circuitries and/or bus lines, operable electrically isolated from direct physical coupling to one another, thus providing for a means of broad-band frequency bypassing and/or decoupling.

[065] This energy pathway arrangement can thus minimize, suppress, decouple, filter, or otherwise modify wanted or unwanted electrical or electromagnetic emissions, for example, such as those resulting from differential and common mode currents, by placement in combination with externally coupled and positioned circuit portions or devices. Further, the energy pathway arrangement can provide balancing in that the shielding energy pathway may include a conductive shielding structure formed from an odd integer number of superposed, shielding electrodes, wherein the total shielding structure exerts a balancing effect on the paired, complementary electrodes adjacent to the shielding energy pathway.

[066] Thus, while at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement allows for smoothing and energy conditioning operations, various desired degrees of smoothing and/or energy conditioning operations can be a function of predetermined

contrasts of energy conditioning desired, due to various and respective predetermined arrangements of main body complementary electrode portions 80s verses each other collectively, as well as a pairing and/or verses main body shielding electrode portions 81s. These desired function(s) may be due, in part, to other relationships, such as various and respective relative size differences, symmetry and/or balancing arrangements, overall relative to and respective of a fulcrum, energy pathway such as 800/800-IM, and/or complementarity of position and/or placement, as well as a shield and/or shielding electrode superposition or a desired energy leakage allowed, and/or non-attachment and/or non-coupling of certain elements within at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement and/or external to at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of a new energy pathway arrangement family..

[067] In addition, at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement may be placed into a circuit, device, or circuit portion, and may be energized to provide electromagnetic interference (EMI) filtering, such as simultaneous differential mode and common mode filtering, across a desired and/or predetermined frequency range. The predetermined frequency range may be broad, or narrow, as selected, and is dependent on the electrode, and/or medium 801, and/or shielding selection, and or the element placement selection, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art. A simultaneous, differential mode and common mode filtering function can be utilized with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of a new energy pathway arrangement family to provide, in many cases, a surge protection function that can be used as well for circuitry attached between a source and an energy utilizing-load.

[068] The predetermined positional shifting of paired, multi-layered offset electrodes of an exemplary embodiment may be, for example, configured in a substantially bypassed, or a feed-thru configuration, and may be formed as portions of single chips, or multi-terminal or multi-point electrode chip array assemblies, for example, and, as set forth herein, can be physically shielded, in whole or in-part, from each other, nearby and/or adjacent offset electrode. More specifically, the energy pathway of an exemplary embodiment may include a passive,

superimposed, shielding and electrode architecture in at least one predetermined arrangement for relatively broad-frequency energy transmissions without degradation, or failure, such as, for example, at energization.

[069] In a more specific embodiment of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, material 801, having predetermined desirable conditioning properties, may be interposed and non-conductively coupled to a substantial number of points surrounding the various elements, such as conductors and/or electrodes, of the energy pathways, in order to provide spacing between energy pathways and/or electrodes, and/or to facilitate conductive coupling between conductive portions within an energy pathway, and/or to insulate the electrodes of the arrangement, and/or to provide structural support, and/or to provide the proper spaced-apart distances between the shielding and the electrodes of the arrangement.

[070] These materials 801 may be oriented in a generally enveloping and adjoining relationship with respect to the electrodes, for example. Materials 801 may not have uniform properties throughout each material 801, or as between materials 801, and non-uniformities may vary the electrical properties of all, or a portion, of the energy pathway arrangement. Materials 801, or portions thereof, may be selected from insulators, including air, semi-insulators, dielectrics, including high K constant and low K constant dielectrics, capacitive materials, inductive materials, ferro-magnetic material, ferrites, shales, metal oxides, varistors, laminates, chemically doped materials, multi-layered materials, semiconductor materials, such as silicon, germanium, gallium-arsenate and gallium arsenide, or compounds or combinations of these and other materials. In a typical embodiment, material 801 will include insulating properties, such as, for example, an X7R, MOV, or COG material 801. Additionally, for example, a polyimide polymer in the form factor of a flexible film, resulting from a polycondensation reaction between pyromellitic dianhydride and four diaminodiphenyl ether, or any derivative of such, which polymer may additionally be combined with other compounds or materials, may be implemented as material 801, as will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

[071] It should be noted that portions of material 801 having predetermined properties may not be provided separately from conductive materials. In this case, material 801 may not necessarily, at first, be practicable or operable for receiving electrode material deposits, but may later be made operable for receipt of such, such as wherein electrode 799, or energy pathway material 799 is partially derived from, or partially or wholly created by, a process that includes at least a portion of material 801 that has been chemically altered, manipulated, doped, or processed with catalysts, from an original state of semi-conductivity or non-conductivity, to a state of conductivity.

[072] Further, in this more specific embodiment of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, an energy pathway, such as a conductor and/or a flexible conductive material, may be selected from Ag, Ag/Pd, Cu, Ni, Pt, Au, Pd and/or other metals, and/or conductively made materials, and/or combinations thereof, and these conductors may be combined with resistive materials, such as a metal oxide, such as ruthenium oxide, which resistive materials may be diluted with a suitable dilution, to form energy pathways. Further, energy pathways may include, and/or be formed by, substances and processes used to create conductive materials, such as Mylar films or printed circuit board materials, doping of polysilicon, sintered polycrystalline, metals, polysilicon silicates, or polysilicon silicides, for example. Additionally, various hybrid polymer films, plasma-treated surfaces, vacuum-deposits, metalized thin films, foil capacitors, PP and PPT for passive devices, radiation-curable acrylate polymers having plasma-treated surface(s), such as taught in U.S. Patent No. 6,214,422, which is incorporated herein by reference, may be used to form energy pathways. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art the energy pathways may not have uniform properties throughout, and may not have consistent properties as between energy pathways.

[073] For example, a thin film passive device may be formed in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, using multilayer passive components, such as those having energy densities of at least 0.5 J/cm<sup>2</sup>, wherein there can be at least three pluralities of interleaved, vacuum-deposited metal electrode

layers, wherein each electrode layer is separated by deposited, or vacuum-deposited, cured or  
485 radiation-cured, polymer dielectric portions, formed by first depositing a monomer layer, and by  
radiation-curing the monomer layer, to define the electrode active region. These interleaved  
metal electrode layer pluralities may be terminated at each respective outer perimeter edge  
portion by single layer or multilayer, sputtered or soldered, material portion or conductive  
material coated termination portion. Formation of this device may include a continuous, one-step  
490 process in a vacuum, for example, wherein each electrode may be formed by metal evaporation.  
Forming the metal layer on the polymer layer may be repeated to form the various pluralities of  
interleaved, vacuum-deposited metal electrodes separated by the vacuum-deposited, radiation-  
cured polymer dielectric portions. The multilayer passive component may then be cut into a  
plurality of multilayer passive components, such as by cutting along a first direction to form a  
495 single passive energy conditioning strip that can then be cut into individual passive energy  
conditioning components, and along a second direction that can be orthogonal to the first  
direction. By cutting the individual passive energy conditioning components, electrode layers  
can be set into, or recessed into, the polymer layers along electrode edges orthogonal to an  
opposite electrode end not necessarily set into or recessed into the polymer layers, for example,  
500 thereby forming a non-conducting portion or region that may prevent arcing and/or leakage  
current between the electrode layers along the orthogonal edges or perimeter portions.

[074] In this more specific embodiment, at least a first, a second, and a third shielding having  
substantially common shape and size, and each being conductively coupled to one another,  
sandwich at least a first and a second electrode of substantially common size and shape, wherein  
505 the first electrode may be at least partially sandwiched between the first and the second  
shielding, and wherein the second electrode may be at least partially sandwiched between the  
second and the third shielding. The first and the second electrode may be at least partially, or  
may be fully, isolated and shielded from one another, and may be disposed in a symmetrical  
and/or complementary arrangement relative to the other, wherein the first and the second  
510 electrode may each have at least one corresponding, face to face electrode area substantially  
equal in size to another at least one corresponding area, and wherein, in addition, the first and the  
second electrode may each have at least one corresponding, non-face to face electrode area that

may be substantially equal to another corresponding non-face to face area. Any of the face-to-face areas, non face-to-face areas, the electrodes, and/or the shielding may be flexible, semi-flexible, or rigid.

[075] This energy pathway arrangement may then be coupled to a larger circuit arrangement, such as for testing or conditioning. A circuit arrangement circuit may, for example, evidence voltage dividing and balancing of opposing pressures internally to the grouped, adjacent electrodes, and/or may allow for a minimized hysteresis or piezoelectric effect within the circuit arrangement. These effects can be frequently encountered in the prior art wherein a switching response or particular time constraint is needed to provide instantaneous energy propagation, and these effects can be remedied by the use of an exemplary embodiment. Thereby, with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, embodiments may appear, in, for example, a bypass or feed through configuration, as an open energy propagation simultaneously on both electrical sides of a common energy reference, such as the third energy pathway discussed hereinabove, such as along energy-in and energy-out pathways connected or coupled from an energy source to a respective load, and/or from the load back to the source. The alternating electrode and material of the energy pathways in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, may operate as an energy conditioner effective at up to 1000 Volts (V), with a capacitance in the nanoFarad (nF) to 1-farad (F) range, dependant, at least in part, upon the overall size and the number of electrode pairs disposed between the shieldings.

[076] In this more specific embodiment, other elements of the arrangement may be oriented in a generally parallel relationship with respect to one another, and/or certain elements may be oriented in a perpendicular relationship. Thus, the energy pathways may be horizontally positioned, or vertically positioned. All elements described herein may include, for example, non-insulated and conductive apertures, or conductive thru-vias, and yet still maintain a separate electrical relationship with an adjoining element or circuit.

[077] Differential capacitive balance, or tolerance balancing, characteristics of an exemplary embodiment may arise, and be controllable by variations in, element positioning, size, and

separations, as well as attachment positioning, and may allow for an energy pathway arrangement, manufactured, for example, at 3% capacitive tolerance internally. Balancing is discussed further hereinbelow with respect to FIGs. 4-10. This internal balance may pass to an attached or coupled and energized circuit the correlated 3% capacitive tolerance.

545 [078] With respect to FIGs. 1, 2, and 3, at least one embodiment of a number of possible  
embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement having complementary energy pathways and/or  
shielding energy pathways, which may each include elongated extenders or extensions, such as  
electrode lead portions 812"XX" and 79G, respectively. Main-body portion 80 and 81, of  
complementary energy pathways and/or shielding energy pathways, respectively, may include,  
550 or be electrically connected to, these electrode lead portions 812"XX" and 79G, respectively..  
For the energy pathways having a main body 80, and the extender(s) 812"XX" for 812A1, for  
example, may have the main-body portion 80 being at least partially, registered between a nearby  
or adjacent sandwiching, shielding energy pathways and/or the respective main body portion 81s.

[079] A portion of a cage-like conductive shield structure for use in accordance with at least  
555 one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement is  
illustrated in FIGs. 1-3. FIG. 3A shows a portion of a cage-like electrode shield structure 400  
that is similar to that of FIGs. 1-3, and a like-cross-sectioned 999 for similar like embodiments is  
depicted FIG. 3B and FIG. 3C. In FIG. 1, a centrally positioned and commonly shared shielding  
energy pathway 800/800-IM is shown disposed upon a portion 800-P, or portion of material 801,  
560 having predetermined properties. Energy pathway 800/800-IM, bypass electrodes 855BT and  
855BB, respectively, disposed upon material portions 801 or plates of material 801 can be  
855BT-P and 855BB-P, respectively. Plates 855BT-P and 855BB-P may be at least a portion of  
material 801 having predetermined properties, disposed in a generally parallel sequential stack  
positioned to sandwich the shared centrally positioned shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM-P.

565 [080] Shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM, and bypass energy pathways 855BT and 855BB,  
may be disposed in a symmetrical, reversed mirrored relationship, and predicated upon a stacked  
sequential manufacturing operation, as set forth generally hereinabove. This positioning may  
result in a stacking of shielding energy pathways above and below bypass energy pathways



855BT and 855BB, and a centrally positioned pathway 800/800-IM, illustrated in FIGs. 1, 2, and  
3C for example.

[081] Positioned above and below by-pass pathways 855BT and 855BB, for example, may be  
a medium material 801. Centrally positioned and shared shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM,  
and shielding energy pathways 815, 810, and the optional shielding energy pathways 855/855-  
IM and 850/850-IM, and the differential bypass energy pathways 855BT and 855BB, may each  
include main body portions 81 and 80 generally separated by a parallel interposition or  
deposition of a material 801.

[082] Each shielding energy pathway may be substantially aligned such that a superposed  
registration relationship results in common and shared perimeter edge alignments of substantially  
all of the shielding energy pathway edges 805. The 805 edges may be located around the co-  
planar perimeter of each shielding energy pathway, and may include a main portion 81 integral  
to each respective shielding energy pathway, and an contiguous extension, such as extension  
79G as discussed hereinabove.

[083] Contiguous electrode extensions 79G may be aligned portions of conductive material 799  
formed contiguously with each shielding energy pathway 855/855-IM, 845, 835, 825, 815,  
800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830, 840 and 850/850-IM, as illustrated in FIGS. 1-3, and made or  
manufactured in form extend away from the main body portion 81 of each, respectively, towards  
a perimeter and/or boundary edge 817. Each contiguous extension 79G may eventually be  
coupled to conductive portion 802B or 802A, respectively. In addition an interconnected  
shielding conductive structure, including shielding energy pathways that at least share one  
common conductive coupling with one another either, may be included in a wrap-around style  
as a conductive material portion 802 that extends at least 270 degrees to 360 degrees around the  
body of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway  
arrangement, to thereby provide multiple conductive coupling locals to portions of edging 805 of  
each shielding energy pathway 855/855-IM, 845, 835, 825, 815, 800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830, 840  
and 850/850-IM, and/or to thereby provide additional shielding isolation on all at least three of at  
least four sides in accordance with at least one embodiment. This at least one embodiment of a

number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement may be could used with discrete chip versions of the embodiments, thus eliminating the need for both 802A and 802B portions, and with an externally located energy pathway that is not conductively coupled to the complementary energy pathways of at least one complementary energy pathway pairing. Note that U.S. Patent Number 5,909,350, filed April 8, 1997, incorporated herein by reference, includes an example of a conductive material portion 802, and may be used to illustrate this concept. Note that a predetermined, centrally positioned shielding energy pathway may serve as a balancing point or fulcrum/divider of an arrangement of balanced, 3-dimensional symmetrical layers, as to the number of layerings, positional arrangements of balanced elements, as well as to distance relationships imparted to these various elements, thereby maintaining and allowing for a resulting arrangement of balanced, 3-dimensional symmetry to exist for at least a portion of the shielding, thereby allowing for a sharing of at least one common conductive coupling to an externally located energy pathway by utilization of a single, 'wrap around' application of a conductive material 802 for use with discrete embodiments, thereby eliminating two, 'non-wrap around portions' of the same conductive material 802, now designated as portions 802A and 802B, wherein conductive material portions such as 802A and 802B maybe conductively coupled to an externally located common energy pathway.

[084] It should be noted that substantially all of the main body 81 portions of the shielding energy pathways may be offset by at least an average pre-determined distance 814 relative to a predetermined outer edge 817. In addition, the energy pathways 855BT and 855BB may be offset an additional distance 806 from the outer edge 805 of the aligned edges of the shielding energy pathways, such that a portion of an outer edge 803 of either energy pathway 855BT and 855BB can be overlapped by a portion of an edge 805 alignment of superposed shielding energy pathways. Accordingly, energy pathway 855BT and 855BB may include a conductive area operable for energy portion propagation less than the area operable for energy portion propagation, or the conductive area operable for energy portion propagations, of any given shielding area operable for energy portion propagations. Thus, any one of the sandwiching shielding energy pathways may posses a total top and bottom conductive area sum greater than the total operable area top and bottom summed of any one complementary electrodes.

[085] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, which is operable as a portion of a circuit when conductive material portions 802A and 802B can be conductively coupled with a portion of predetermined shielding 805, wherein the differential pathway is at least partially sandwiched by at least two shieldings, and wherein each of the differential electrodes may be smaller in overall size relative to each of the superposed shieldings, the differential electrodes may be offset within the superimposed shielding, thereby creating an area 806 of gap. Thereby, at least one portion each of at least two superposed shielding energy pathways may not have directly blocked, by electrodes, a line of sight between these at least two shielding energy pathways. In the typical embodiment of FIG. 3A, single cage-like structure 800E mirrors single cage-like structure 800D, except that differential electrode 855BB may be oppositely positioned to differential electrode 855BT.

[086] Energy pathway lead portions 79'X', 812'X' and or 798'X' are preferably conductive. These electrode lead portions 79'X' can be positioned in relative, complementary paired relationships on differing side portions sides of the energy conditioner body, and can be isolated by a larger shielding electrode 8"XX".

[087] Differential electrodes grouping of 885BT, 865BT, 855BB, 875BB and differential electrodes grouping of 875BT, 855BT, 865BB, 885BB can be within a predetermined sequence, and 3 dimensional positioning scheme, within the common conductive, cage-like shielding structure, as shown in FIG. 3A.

[088] For example, structures 800C, 800D, 800E, 800F, and 800G for example as shown in FIG. 3A, when taken individually, include six shieldings 825, 815, 800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830, and, when operable as shielding structures 900A, 900B, 900C, the six shieldings 825, 815, 800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830 can be in a predetermined interweaved, overlapping manner such that the operable shielding structure 900A utilizes shielding 800/800-IM, 810, 820, while operable shielding structure 900B utilizes shielding 815, 800/800-IM, 810, and while operable shielding structure 900B utilizes shielding 810, 820, 830. It is of interest to note that shielding 810 can be utilized by all three operable shielding structures 900"XX". Together, 800E and 800F create a

single and larger common conductive cage-like electrode shield structure 900A that acts as a  
655 paired shielded conductive container, and 800E and 800F also make up portions of 900C and  
900B, respectively.

[089] Each container 800"X" may include an equal number of same sized, differential  
electrodes that are not necessarily physically opposing, within larger structure 900"X". Each  
container 800"X" may be oriented in a generally homogenous physical and electrically parallel  
660 and common manner. Larger, cage-like conductive shielding structure 900A, with co-acting  
800E and 800F individual shield-like conductive structures, when energized, and attached to the  
same external common conductive path area (not shown) by conductive material portions 802A  
and 802B, such as by reflux solder conductive epoxies, adhesives, and the like, as will be  
apparent to those skilled in the art.

665 [090] In FIG. 1, the central shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM, with respect to the  
interposition between the differential electrodes 855BT and 855BB, within the outer two  
additional sandwiching shielding energy pathways 815 and 810, forms an un-energized, cage-  
like electrode shield structure 900B. The central shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM may  
thereby be used simultaneously, by both differential electrodes 855BT and 855BB, but produce  
670 opposite results with respect to charge switching. The offset distance and area 806 enables the  
shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM to extend beyond the alignment of energy pathways  
855BT and 855BB, in order to provide a shield against portions of energy flux fields which  
might have extended beyond the edge 803 of the energy pathways 855BT and 855BB, were it  
not for the electrostatic shielding effect of the energized faraday-like cage systems resulting in  
675 reduction of near field coupling between other energy pathways 855BT and 855BB, and/or  
between external differential energy pathways coupled thereto.

[091] The horizontal 806 area may be, for example, approximately between 0 to 25+, or more,  
times the vertical distance between the energy pathways 855BT or 855BB and the shielding  
energy pathway 800/800-IM. This offset distance 806 can be optimized for a particular  
680 application, but all distances of overlap 806 among each respective pathway are ideally  
approximately the same, on average. Minor size differences can be unimportant in area 806

between pathways, as long as electrostatic shielding of FIG. 2, for example, is not entirely compromised.

[092] In order to couple electrode 855BT or 855BB to external energy pathways positioned  
685 external to 855BT or 855BB, such as on either side of 800B, respectively, the energy pathway  
855BT and 855BB may have one, or a plurality of, portions 812, which extend beyond the edge  
805 of the superposed shielding 800/800-IM, 810 and 815, by extensions 812A and 812B. These  
extensions can be, in-turn, conductively coupled to material 890A and 890B, which enables the  
by-pass energy pathways 855BT and 855BB to be electrically coupled to externally located,  
690 differential energy pathways on either side electrically of shielding pathway 800/800-IM. The  
multi-layer components may include at least one material 890A and/or 890B, and a plurality of  
electrical terminal portions 802A, 802B, wherein each material 890A or 890B may be  
conductively coupled to at least the first electrode, or the second electrode, respectively as shown  
in FIG. 2. For example, multi-layer components may be arranged to define a decoupling  
695 capacitor for a multiprocessing unit, a connector assembly, a bypass and decoupling capacitor, a  
bypass capacitor array, or a feed-thru capacitor array, due to the fact that at least three elements  
can be providing simultaneous cancellation and/or suppression and/or other energy conditioning  
functions, such as simultaneous, common mode and differential mode filtering.

[093] Furthermore, a cage-like effect, or electrostatic shielding effect, wherein electrically  
700 charged containment of internally generated energy parasitics, occurs to shield from the  
respectively paired, complementary energy pathway main-body portion 80s. Partial electrostatic  
shielding provides a protection to prevent escaping of a portion of internally generated energy  
parasitics to a nearby mated, complementary conductive energy pathway. Electrostatic shielding  
function also aids in a minimization of energy parasitics attributed to the energized  
705 complementary energy pathways by at least substantially immersing, or substantially physical  
shielding, of a balanced and/or proportional symmetrically matched insetting of predetermined  
complementary energy pathways within a predetermined area

[094] It should also be noted, with respect to FIG. 3B and FIG. 3C, that the interposition of  
conductive and non-conductive material portions that include material 801 'shielding' functions

710 can be utilized despite a very small distance of separation of oppositely phased electrically complementary operations contained within common energy pathways. Operations may additionally occur when coupling to a common conductive portion has been made such that energy portions utilizing various electrically opposing equally sized energy pathways opposites can be operable to interact in a manner balanced between the opposite sides of a common  
715 conductive shield structure.

[095] Exceptional mutual energy flux cancellation of various portions of energy propagating along paired and electrically opposing conductive energy pathways that can be spaced-apart from one another by a very small distance(s) of either or both direct and indirect separation of oppositely phased electrically complementary operations, with a simultaneous stray parasitic  
720 suppression and containment functions, operate in tandem enhance functionality of an exemplary embodiment. H-field flux propagates by Ampere's law along a transmission pathway, trace, line or conductor or conductive layer portion. In an embodiment wherein an energy-in pathway and an energy-return pathway can be brought very close to each other, almost directly adjacent and parallel with minimal separation by only at least two portions of material 801 and a shielding  
725 energy pathway, and corresponding complementary energy field portions may be combined for mutual cancellation or minimization of the separate individual effect. The closer the complementary symmetrical pathways can be brought together, the better the mutual cancellation effect may be.

[096] Certain shielding energy pathways, such as can be shown as #-IM'X', can be  
730 additionally placed shielding energy pathways located outside of, and sandwiching in close proximity the balance of, the energy pathways of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement .

[097] As disclosed in FIG. 3B, FIG. 8B and FIG. 8C, additionally placed, outer shielding energy pathways can be designated as -IMO-'X'. Additionally placed, inner shielding energy  
735 pathways can be designated as -IMI-'X', with the exception of 8"XX"/8"XX"-IM-C, and may be optional. Additionally placed, outer and inner shielding energy pathways may also be conductively coupled to the other shielding energy pathways and one another, to center shielding

energy pathway designated 8"XX"/8"XX"-IM, and to almost any other members of the plurality of shielding energy pathways in a final static form of at least one embodiment. It is contemplated that additional numbers of centrally positioned common energy pathway electrodes 8"XX"/8"XX"-IMs, totaling to an odd number integer that can be added to the existing central positioned shielding, energy pathway or shielding energy pathway 8"XX"/8"XX"-IM, may provide specific and distinct features that can enhance the multi-circuit energy-conditioning.

[098] In FIG. 3B and FIG. 3C, a spacing separation distance that could be filled using portions of 801 material, for example, can be designated 806, 814, 814A, 814B, , 814C, 814D, 814E, 814F and can be normally final to a device-relevant configuration.

[099] Separation or spacing distances 806, 814, 814A, 814B, 814C, 814D, 814E, 814F, 814E, for example, may be generally a portion of three dimensional separation distance or proximity of spacing found between nearly adjacent or nearby stacked energy pathway materials formed to be energy pathways and/or electrode portions, such as 814E, and designate a relationship between shielding energy pathway 825 and shielding energy pathway 815, for example, and may include not only a portion of complementary energy pathway 865BT, but at least a portion of material 801 or equivalent, in order to aid in the support of energy pathways and the separation or spacing functions desired. It should be noted that spacing 666 designates an area that can be found within, or beyond, a 817 perimeter, for example, wherein minimal to no simultaneous energy conditioning functions may be operable as described herein.

[0100] In an embodiment, a multi-layer component of an energy pathway arrangement may include at least three common-sized and superposed, shielding electrodes that are conductively coupled to each other and that can be formed upon support material having predetermined properties. At least a first electrode and at least a second electrode can be formed in a predetermined manner upon the support material having predetermined properties, and the first electrode can be then stacked between at least two common-sized electrodes of the at least three common-sized electrodes. The second electrode can be stacked between at least two common-sized electrodes of the at least three common-sized electrodes, and thereby the first electrode and the second electrode sandwich the one centered common-sized electrode of the three common-

sized electrodes, while the first electrode and the second electrode may be substantially equally offset relative to the three common-sized electrodes, such as by a predetermined distance, and the support material may isolate the three common-sized electrodes from the first and the second electrodes, thereby preventing a direct conduction coupling between the first and the second electrodes and the at least three common-sized electrodes

[0101] Thereby, the first electrode can be stacked between at least two common-sized electrodes of the at least three common-sized electrodes, and the second electrode can be stacked between at least two common-sized electrodes of the at least three common-sized electrodes, and thereby the first and second electrodes sandwich at least a portion of the at least one centered common-sized electrode of the at least three common-sized electrodes, such that the first electrode and the second electrode may be substantially equally offset relative to the at least one centered common-sized electrode, to prevent a direct electrical coupling between these electrodes to form a non-discrete or discrete energy conditioning electrode structure.

[0102] It will be apparent to those of ordinary skill that the shape, thickness or size of elements discussed herein may be varied, dependant upon the electrical application. The elements of an exemplary embodiment may be so-varied wherein arrangements of energy pathways forms at least two predetermined conductive shielding containers, which subsequently create at least one larger, at least partial faraday cage-like shield structure, which in turn provides shielding functions simultaneously under certain conditions, such as at energization, for portions of complementary paired differential electrodes that operate with the disclosed principals in either a discrete or non-discrete variant, such as in combination with at least one energized circuit portion.

[0103] An embodiment of a typical energy pathway arrangement is shown in Figures 4A, 4B, and 4C as a complementary, symmetrically balanced energy pathway arrangement. Looking particularly to Figure 4C, a plurality of consecutively superposed energy pathways 815, 855BT, 800/800-IM, 855BT, and 810 are shown. These energy pathways may be composed of a material 801 having varistor material properties, or predominately ferromagnetic material properties, or predominately dielectric material properties, for example, and may be spaced-apart as shown by



806, 814, 814A, 814C, 814D, 814E, 814F. Each subsequent energy pathway is superposed upon  
795 the previous energy pathway, such as, for example, wherein the third pathway 800/800-IM is  
positioned above the second pathway 855BB. The first energy pathway 815 may be conductively  
coupled to both the third pathway 800/800-IM and the fifth pathway 810, thereby creating a set  
of shields. Each pathway of the set of shields may be substantially the same size.

[0104] Conductively isolated from the shields is a set of electrodes. The set of electrodes  
800 includes a second energy pathway 855BT at least partially conductively isolated from the fourth  
energy pathway 855BT. The electrodes have similar conductive areas 80 arranged facing each  
other. Each electrode is substantially the same size and is smaller than each shield.

[0105] In FIG. 3A, an example of a multi-layer component as described could also include at  
least one or more electrode coupling material portions, such as 890A and 890B, used for external  
805 conductive 'liaison' between internal and external energy pathways. It should be noted that  
coupling material portions, such as 802A and 802B, 890A and 890B, can be substituted by  
almost any methodology of 'liaison', or direct coupling conductive elements, for circuit  
connection. For example, in FIG. 4B and FIG. 4C coupling conductive elements are shown as  
via hole conductors, such as via hole conductor 888A, coupled conductively by common  
810 conductive coupling processes known in that art, to at least first electrode plurality of 885BT,  
865BT, 855BB, 875BB, and via hole conductor 888B is additionally coupled conductively to at  
least second electrode plurality of 875BT, 855BT, 865BB, 885BB, while via hole conductor  
777A and via hole conductor 777B for example, can be both conductively coupled to 845, 835,  
825, 815, 800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830, 840, respectively to be eventually coupled conductively  
815 common to an external common energy pathway, if desired.

[0106] Other energy pathway arrangements of FIGS. 4A-4C can be also operable as at least  
bypass propagation mode 855BT, 855BB energy pathway arrangements, wherein the first, the  
third, and the fifth pathway 815, 800/800-IM, 810 can be operable as shielding of a portion of at  
least the second energy pathway and the fourth energy pathway 855BT, 855BB, and wherein the  
820 plurality of pathways 815, 855BT, 800/800-IM, 855BB, 810 may also operable together as a  
portion of a capacitive network. The energy pathway arrangement is practicable for simultaneous

common mode and differential mode filtering with a surge protection function. At least one shield, as shown by example 800/800-IM, of the plurality of shields 815, 800/800-IM, 810 may be operable for receiving a voltage bias and/or a voltage divider, and a line-to-line capacitance value of approximately half of the line-to-ground capacitance value.

[0107] The energy conditioner of FIGS. 4A-4C may include at least two outer, superposed electrodes coupled to the plurality of shields, which shields may be made from a material having dielectric, varistor, or ferrite properties, and which superposed electrodes may be operable as a voltage divider. These two outer, superposed electrodes will, in an typical embodiment, be conductively coupled to another element, such as a substrate, a motor, and a circuit, for energized operations, for performing simultaneous, common mode and differential mode filtering for a circuit assembly serving an energy-utilizing load.

[0108] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, energy conditioners of FIGS. 4A-4C operate to prevent the escape of portions of near field electrical flux from within portions of the overall the energy conditioner of FIGS. 4A-4C, while also sustaining electrostatic shielding of portions of a total amount of energy parasitics. The energy conditioner of FIGS. 4A-4C can be operable as a portion of a sensor, or portion of an operational amplifier circuit assembly, either as a discrete or non-discrete component. In an embodiment, the number of pathways, common energy pathway electrodes, equally-sized differentially charged bypass electrodes, and feed-thru conductive energy pathway electrodes, can be multiplied in a predetermined manner to create a number of conductive energy pathway element combinations in a generally physical parallel and electrically parallel relationship, which physically and electrically parallel arrangement may be electrically parallel with respect to energized positioning between at least a circuit energy source and at least a circuit energy-utilizing load. This circuit assembly configuration will also thereby create increased capacitance values.

[0109] Referring to FIGS. 4A-4C, a common conductive shield structure may be utilized. Any outer conductive elements used for circuit attachment are not shown herein. In addition, utilizing materials having predetermined properties 801 categorized primarily for a certain electrical

850 conditioning function or results is contemplated by the applicant. This includes a layered application that uses non-discrete capacitive or inductive structure or electrode within a manufactured non-discrete integrated circuit die, for example, a super capacitor application, or a nano-sized energy-conditioning structure. For example, the discrete energy pathway arrangement may be operable to have material portions 801 made of a resin material. Likewise, the formation of discrete energy pathway arrangement might involve a firing or a heating process to raise a temperature of at least a portion of the energy pathway arrangement by at least 15 degrees Celsius within a 30-minute period, or by using photolithography.

[0110] FIGs. 5A, 6A, 7A, and 8A show a plurality of shields 845, 835, 825, 815, 800/800-IM, 810, 820, 830, 840 of substantially similar size and shape. The plurality includes at least a first, a second, and a third shield 810, 800/800-IM, 815, which can be conductively coupled to both 777B, 777A. The first electrode 855BB and the second electrode 855BT can be disposed substantially isolated and shielded from each other, in a symmetrical and mutually complementary orientation. The first electrode and the second electrode each have at least one corresponding face-to-face electrode portion 813E that is equal in size. The non-face to face electrode areas found occupying a portion of ALI regions, such as 6400, 6500, may be substantially equal in size. Each electrode can have a face-to-face electrode area, and/or propagation area 813E, that is substantially equally proportional in size to its non-face-to-face area 6400, 6500. However, the face-to-face areas of the complementary electrodes may, in an embodiment, only be partially superimposed, as illustrated. Further, the electrodes in the illustrated embodiment may not be entirely encompassed within the outer perimeter of the shielding energy pathway superposed edges 805.

[0111] A shielding energy pathway of at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement is shown in Figure 9A and 9B, and is illustrative of at least one embodiment operable with various split, energy pathway configurations. A split energy pathway 855/855-IMO-1 and 855/855-IMO-2 functions similarly to an 855/855-IMO, non-split energy pathway. All energy pathways, shields or electrodes, may include split energy pathway configurations, with the exception of any predetermined 800/800-

IM centrally positioned, shielding energy pathway. A split configuration of a corresponding superposed, closely spaced pair of 855/855-IMO-1 and 855/855-IMO-2 pathways may include a  
880 thin conductive or conductive-resistive material(s), minutely separated 814B by a portion of a semi-conductive or non-conductive support material 801, including an insulating material portion 801 occupying a spacing and/or distance 814B that is normally thinner, or less in volume, than a spacing and/or distance of 814 or 814A, such as the spacing found between 855/855-IMO and an adjacent shielding energy pathway 845, as shown in FIG. 8B. Split energy  
885 pathways can be beneficial in some configurations as this allows for an increase in a total energy pathway propagation area over that of a non-split energy pathway.

[0112] Larger common shielding conductors, such as 855/855-IMO may be included as part of a larger universal shielding arrangement that utilizes split pathway elements, such as for at least increasing of the energy propagation volume, as well as increasing certain other energy pathway  
890 functions, such as providing for better heat dissipation from energized operations. Split energy pathway construction may substantially increase the relative current carrying ability of such a configured energy pathway, as compared to non-split energy pathways, thereby allowing not only an increase in overall current handling ability versus a non-split configuration, but also allowing for a reduction in overall size of a comparable component of the same capacitance.

895 [0113] In at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, each respective differential conductive energy pathway pair may utilize a zero voltage reference image node created along at least a portion of the internal shielding energy pathways. Energy conditioning functions to some degree may always occur, but may be optimal in predetermined areas whereat a portion of the circuit receiving a shielding is within the  
900 footprint of a sandwiching shielding pathways.

[0114] For example, a physical shielding cage-like effect, or electrostatic shielding effect, having electrically charged containment of immured portions of internally generated energy parasitics shielded from at least partially shielded, energy pathways may provide at least some physical shielding protection from externally generated energy parasitics coupling to the same for at least  
905 a partially shielded, energy pathway.

[0115] Further, predetermined arrangements of selective interpositing of conductive material 799 with portions of material having predetermined properties 801 allows for embodiments operable for a very small distance of separation of oppositely charged active conductive energy pathways. A relative balanced and complementary-symmetrical arrangement with respect to the center shield 8"XX", or shield 800/800-IM, is utilized as the arrangement fulcrum of balanced reciprocal conductive portions.

[0116] At least a partial flux field cancellation of energy propagating along paired and electrically opposing complementary electrodes in a balanced but shifted embodiment. Further, simultaneous stray energy parasitics, complementary charged suppression, and physical and electrostatic shielding containment may also occur. This result is achieved because the magnetic flux energies travel at least partially along the energy pathway wherein the RF return path is normally parallel and adjacent to a corresponding source energy pathway. Here, the magnetic flux energy can sometimes be measured or observed relative to a return energy pathway.

[0117] When one combines mutually opposing fields together, a cancellation or minimization effect is normally observed. The closer the complementary, symmetrically oriented shields can be brought together, the better the mutually opposing cancellation effect to opposing energy propagation is yielded. The more superposed orientation given the complementary, symmetrically oriented shields, the better result for the suppression of parasitics and cancellation effect. Correspondingly, these characteristics may be varied, for example, by the shifting discussed herein.

[0118] It is noted that paired and shifted energy pathways can be relative in balance and complementary-symmetrical and/or reciprocal positioning with respect to a predetermined, central energy pathway, such as shielding energy pathway 800/800-IM. An embodiment may include relatively shifted, balanced, complementary, and symmetrical arrangement of predetermined shields and electrodes complementarily sandwiching a centrally positioned shield, such as 800/800-IM, for example.

[0119] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement like those of FIGs. 4-8C, a shifted energy pathway arrangement may include a multiplicity of layers including those arranged having a shielding energy pathway, an energy pathway, a shielding energy pathway, an energy pathway, and a shielding energy pathway, in a non-shifted, or a shifted, manner. Each of these multiplicity of layers is centered about, and complementary about, a predetermined, centrally located, shielding energy pathway, and the multiplicity is centered about a predetermined center shielding energy pathway. Complementarity and balance can be maintained about the predetermined center shielding energy pathway, although individual shielding energy pathways, and/or energy pathways, may be shifted to create discrete offset or shifted complementary energy pathways in predetermined arrangement that maintains overall balance and symmetry between a predetermined matched, energy pathway pair. Further, this shifting of complementary energy pathways may expose at least one complementary energy pathway, at least in part, outside the perimeter of the superposed shielding energy pathways, thereby allowing for parasitics, leakage, and the like, and thereby varying, for example, desired impedance characteristics for a predetermined circuit portion.

[0120] For example, a given electrode may be shifted 5 points to the left. This shifting must be accounted for in the matched pairs about a center shield, and, consequently, either an adjacent matched pair electrode of opposing polarity may be shifted 5 points, or 5 adjacent electrodes of opposite polarity may each shift 1 point, thereby maintaining balance and complementarity. The same is true wherein a shield is shifted to a greater degree over an electrode of a given polarity, and an electrode having opposite polarity is shifted in an opposite manner to maintain balance and complementarity. Further, energy pathways may remain within the perimeter of the superposed shielding energy pathways, and nonetheless be shifted thereunder. Such a shifting under the shielding energy pathways may, nonetheless, make desirable a symmetry and balancing overall. However, certain typical embodiments, such as that of FIG. 6A, wherein the electrodes can be pulled toward the center of a shield and remain under the shield, may evidence differing electrical characteristics, such as inductive behavior, while maintaining a desired, balanced, symmetrical state.

960 [0121] It should be noted that, in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, it is practicable to emulate a center tap of resistor/voltage divider network. Other energy conditioning functions may be provided by the at least partial physical shielding, such as a decoupling function, transient suppression function, complementary energy cancellation function, energy blocking function, and energy parasitic suppression function. It should be noted that the just stated electrostatic shielding may occur upon energization and/or predetermined attachments or couplings of various energy pathways into various predetermined circuit portion configurations.

970 [0122] A resistor/voltage divider network can be normally constructed using a ratio of various integrated circuit resistors. However, various integrated circuit resistors may be replaced by the use of an exemplary embodiment, utilizing either specific conductive/resistive materials 799A, or utilizing naturally occurring resistance properties of almost any type or combination of material operable as an conductive material 799, or by varying the physical layout, such as the alignment, superimposition, or complementarity, of the final matched pairs. A voltage dividing function will also be present as portions of a common and shared electrode shield structure can 975 be utilized to define a common voltage reference located at both respective sides of the common electrode shield structure instantaneously for at least a portion of a circuit.

[0123] In accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, unwanted energy parasitics originating from either, or both, of the paired and oppositely co-acting, differential electrodes, may be at least partially minimized or suppressed, such as upon conductive coupling to circuitry, due to operation of an exemplary embodiment in a substantially balanced manner in accordance with the physical positions and arrangement of the shielding energy pathways. Further, in accordance with at least one embodiment of a number of possible embodiments of an energy pathway arrangement, portions of un-wanted energy parasitics and energy fields in a subsequent circuit, in the form of both 985 differential mode and common mode energies, may be minimized.

[0124] As illustrated herein, examples of the possible energy-conditioning arrangement(s), and variants thereof, have been shown and described, and it is clearly conveyed and understood that

other modifications and variations may be made thereto by those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of an exemplary embodiment. It should also be readily understood and appreciated that various aspects and element limitations of the various embodiments and elements shown may be interchanged, in whole, and/or in-part, and/or by modification, such that the preceding discussion is made by way of example only, and that it is not intended by the applicant to be limiting of an exemplary embodiment as further described in the claims appended hereto.



**Claims**

What is claimed:

1. An energy pathway arrangement, comprising:  
a plurality of superposed and conductively coupled energy pathways;  
wherein said plurality includes at least a first, a second and a third superposed energy pathway;  
at least a first and a second energy pathway of substantially similar size and shape;  
wherein said first energy pathway is at least partially shielded and sandwiched by the first and the second superposed energy pathway, and wherein said second energy pathway is at least partially shielded and sandwiched by the second and the third superposed energy pathway;  
wherein said first and said second energy pathways each have at least a corresponding, face to face area, wherein each of the face to face areas comprises a first surface area, and wherein said first and said second energy pathways each have at least a corresponding, non-face to face area, wherein each of the non-face to face areas comprises a second surface area; and  
wherein each first surface area is proportional to each second surface area..
2. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 1, wherein said first or said second energy pathway is each smaller than any one of said plurality of superposed energy pathways.
3. An energy pathway arrangement comprising:  
a first plurality of conductively coupled superposed energy pathways;  
a second plurality of conductively coupled superposed energy pathways;  
a third plurality of conductively coupled superposed energy pathways;

wherein each of said first, said second and said third plurality of superposed energy pathways is conductively isolated from each other of said first, said second, and said third plurality;

wherein each superposed energy pathway of said second and said third plurality of superposed energy pathways are of substantially common size and shape;

wherein any one superposed energy pathway of said first plurality of superposed energy pathways is larger than any one superposed energy pathway of said second or said third plurality of superposed energy pathways;

wherein at least one superposed energy pathway of said first plurality of superposed energy pathways at least partially shields at least one superposed energy pathway from said second or said third plurality of superposed energy pathways from any other of said second or said third plurality of superposed energy pathways;

wherein a number of said first plurality of superposed energy pathways is an odd integer; and

wherein a number of said second and said third plurality of superposed energy pathways sums to an even integer.

4. The energy pathway arrangement as in one of claims 1-3, wherein said energy pathway arrangement filters at least one of common mode and differential mode noise.

5. The energy pathway arrangement as in one of claims 1-4, wherein said energy pathway arrangement is a stacked energy pathway arrangement.

6. The energy pathway arrangement as in one of claims 1-4, wherein the energy pathway arrangement further comprises a support material for providing support and for substantially isolating at least one of said energy pathways from at least one other of said superposed energy pathways.

7. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 3, further comprising a support material for substantially isolating at least one plurality of superposed energy pathways of said first, second and third pluralities of superposed energy pathways from at least one other of said first, second, and third pluralities of superposed energy pathways.
8. The energy pathway arrangement as in one of claims 1-4, wherein said energy pathway arrangement further comprises at least a material selected from a group of materials consisting of insulator materials, semi-insulator materials, dielectric materials, inductive material, ferromagnetic materials, ferrite materials, shale materials, metal oxide materials, varistor materials, chemically doped materials, semi-conductive materials, and combinations thereof.
9. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of dielectric material portions for supporting at least said first and said second energy pathway.
10. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 7, wherein said support material comprises a resin material.
11. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 7, wherein said support material comprises a ferrite material.
12. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 7, wherein said support material comprises a dielectric material.
13. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 10, wherein said energy pathway arrangement is raised in temperature by at least 15 degrees Celsius within a 30-minute period.

14. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 10, wherein any one energy pathway of said energy pathway arrangement is photolithographed.
15. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 3, wherein said second plurality of superposed energy pathways and said third plurality of superposed energy pathways are relatively substantially symmetrical and opposite in orientation.
16. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 2, wherein the first energy pathway and the second energy pathway are at least a first electrode and a second electrode.
17. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 16, wherein any one superposed energy pathway of said plurality of superposed energy pathways is a shielding electrode.
18. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 9, wherein the first energy pathway and the second energy pathway are at least a first electrode and a second electrode.
19. The energy pathway arrangement of one of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, or 18, operable as a portion of a capacitive network.
20. The energy pathway arrangement of one of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, or 18, operable as a voltage divider.
21. The energy pathway arrangement of one of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, or 18, operable as an energy conditioner.

22. The energy pathway arrangement of one of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, or 18, operable as a capacitor.
23. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 7, further comprising:  
an energy source;  
an energy-utilizing load; and  
wherein said first plurality, said second plurality, and said third plurality of superposed energy pathways maintain voltage balance between an energy source and an energy-utilizing load, relative to a common voltage reference.
24. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 23, further comprising:  
a neutral conductor conductively coupled to said first plurality of superposed energy pathways by at least one conductive material portion;  
a positive conductor conductively coupled to said second plurality of superposed energy pathways by at least another conductive material portion; and  
a negative conductor conductively coupled to said third plurality of superposed energy pathways by at least one other conductive material portion.
25. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 24, wherein the at least one other conductive material portion is nonsuperposed to the at least one another conductive material portion.
26. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 24, wherein the at least one conductive material portion is nonsuperposed to the at least one another conductive material portion.

27. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 24, wherein the at least one conductive material portion is nonsuperposed to the at least one other conductive material portion.

28. The energy pathway arrangement as in one of claims 1-4, wherein said energy pathway arrangement further comprises at least two outer shielding energy pathways.

29. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 16, wherein at least the first electrode and at least the second electrode comprise at least a first and at least a second split-electrode.

30. The energy pathway arrangement of one of claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, or 29, operable as a bypass capacitor.

31. An energy pathway arrangement, comprising:

a first plurality of conductively coupled energy pathways of substantially equal size and shape, wherein each of the first plurality is parallel with each other of the first plurality;

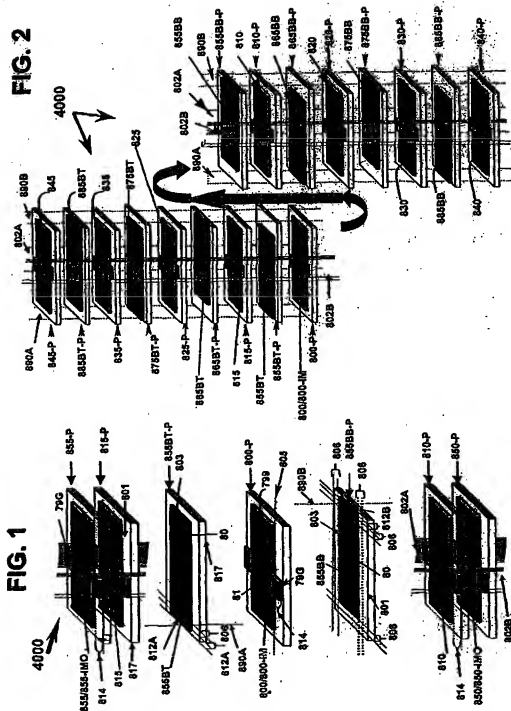
a second plurality of conductively coupled energy pathways of substantially equal size and shape, wherein each of the second plurality is parallel with each other of the second plurality;

a third plurality of conductively coupled energy pathways of substantially equal size and shape, and wherein the each of the third plurality is superposed and parallel with each other of the third plurality;

wherein at least one of the first plurality is at least partially nonsuperposed with at least one of said third plurality, and wherein at least one of the second plurality is complementarily partially nonsuperposed with the at least one of the third plurality to compensate for the nonsuperposition of the at least one of the first plurality with the at least one of the third plurality.

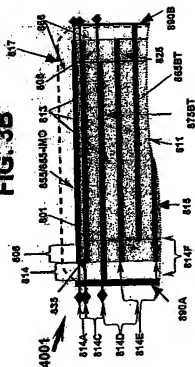
32. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 31, wherein, other than the at least one partially nonsuperposed of the first plurality, the remaining of the first plurality are substantially superposed with the third plurality.

33. The energy pathway arrangement of claim 31, wherein the partially nonsuperposed area comprises a shifted area.

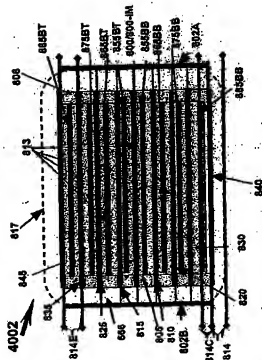




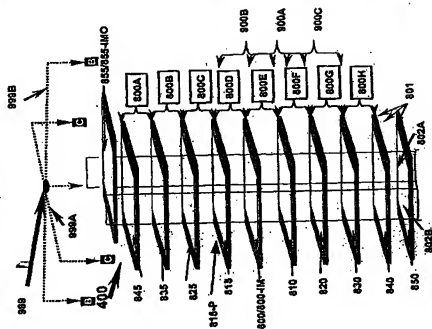
**FIG. 3B**

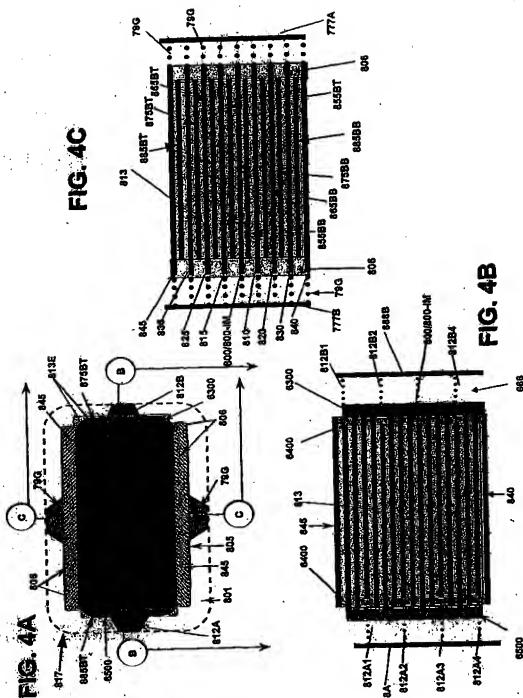


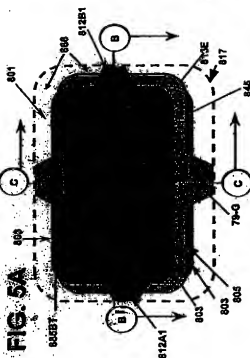
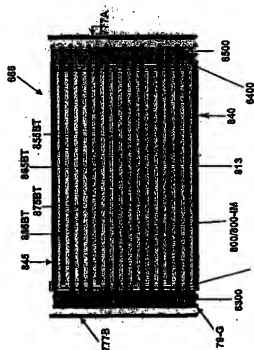
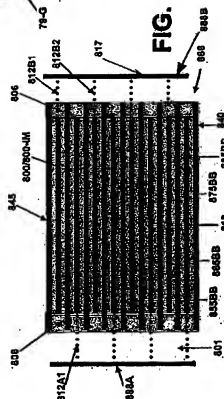
**FIG. 3C**

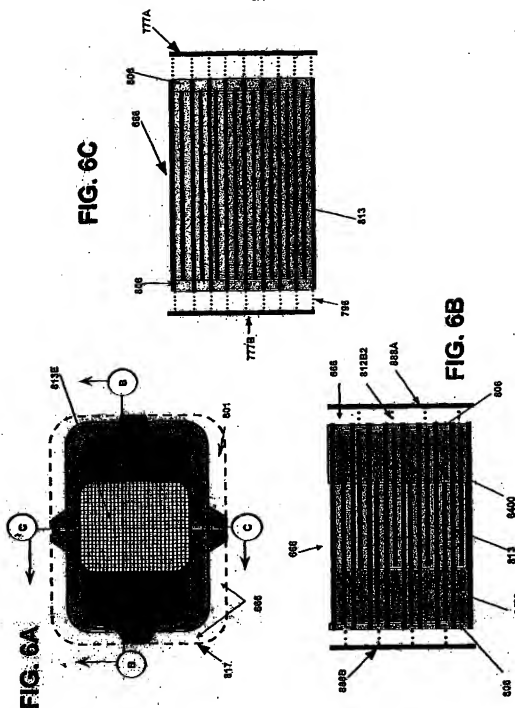


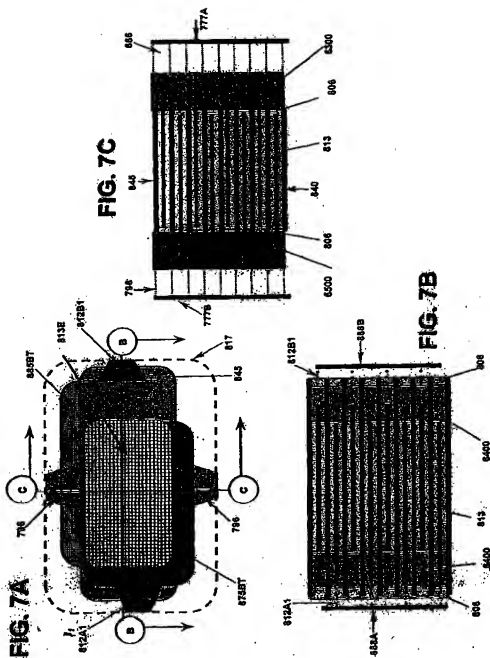
**FIG. 3A**

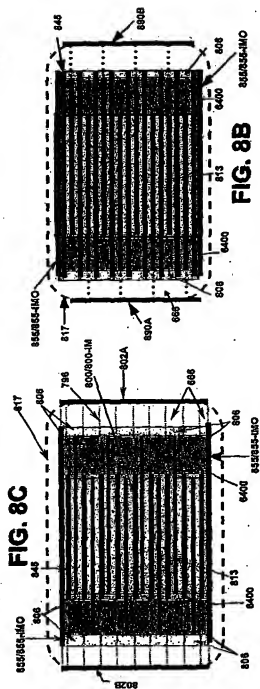
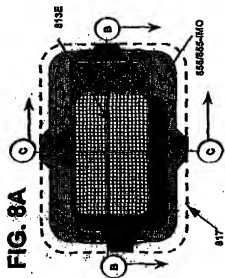
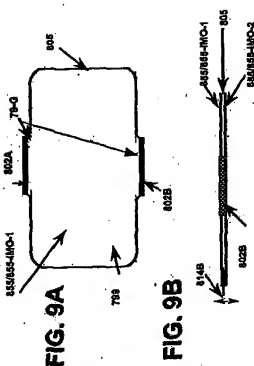




**FIG. 5C****FIG. 5B**







# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/10302

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H02H 9/00

US CL : 361/118

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 361/118,56,58,91.1,113,127

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,120,326 A (BROOKS et al) 19 September 2000(19.09.00), see entire document	1-31
A	US 6,191,669 B (SHIGEMURA) 20 February 2001(20.02.01), see entire document.	1-31

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

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"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"Z"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 July 2002 (25.07.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

19 AUG 2002

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